

uses and lot sizes, the viability of well and septic systems, the potential environmental impacts, and the ability to properly apply the standards of the ULDC, and therefore recommends approval of the request for R-A zoning only on the 2.5-acre portion (Tract 1) as depicted by the Carter Surveying plat dated 10-31-2025. At the November Planning Commission meeting, the applicant's representative spoke in support, and no one spoke in opposition. The GLPC recommended approval of the request for R-A zoning only on the 2.5-acre portion (Tract 1) as depicted by the Carter Surveying plat dated 10-31-2025 unanimously.

## **FOR CONSIDERATION**

### **FY2027 5311 Rural Transit Authorizing Resolution**

County Planner, J.D. Dillard, presented the item. Mr. Dillard stated the Southern Georgia Regional Commission voted at their August 28, 2025, meeting to apply for the FY2027 5311 Rural Transportation Program Grant Funding from the Georgia Department of Transportation in order to continue operating the regional transit system on behalf of the participating local municipalities, including Lowndes County. Commissioner Smith inquired if every county has to be approved for the eighteen (18) county area. Mr. Dillard responded yes. Commissioner Smith asked if every county participates, Mr. Dillard responded that fourteen (14) out of the eighteen (18) are participating.

### **Abandonment of Grice Road**

Director of Engineering Services, Chad McLeod, presented the item. Mr. McLeod stated a request to abandon Grice Road was received from Dale Grice who owns the property at 3532 Grice Road. Staff asked for comments from stakeholder departments and public safety regarding this abandonment. All comments were from public safety relating to access to all the parcels in case of an emergency. The owners will be required to install a pre-planned access gate in the event they install a fence in the future, and they must maintain the driveway. The abandonment will also landlock a three-acre parcel that is owned by Joy M. Bassford, the sister of Dale Grice. Mr. McLeod stated they understand if they ever want to build on that parcel they will have to get a variance. Georgia statute requires an initial determination either (a) "that the section of the county road system has for any reason ceased to be used by the public to the extent that no substantial public purpose is served by it" or (b) "that its removal from the county road system is otherwise in the best public interest," or both. If the Board makes either or both of these determinations, the statute provides for notice to adjoining property owners, notice to the public by newspaper publication, and a public hearing. Commissioner Smith inquired regarding the grading of this road. Mr. McLeod answered that if the commission votes to abandon it, Lowndes County will have no rights to the road. Commissioner Smith asked if the road was being maintained. Mr. McLeod answered a little.

### **PI# 0016280 Twin Lakes Road Paving and Drainage Improvements Georgia Power Relocation Agreement**

Director of Engineering Services, Chad McLeod, presented the item. Mr. McLeod stated the Twin Lakes Road Paving and Drainage Improvements is a TIA 1 project. The design and documents are in the final stages of being complete. Georgia Power will have to relocate seventeen (17) poles and the lines for these poles. Georgia Power has proved prior rights and provided Lowndes County with a relocation agreement with a not to exceed amount of \$721,989.00. This is a planned cost and will be covered by TSPLOST. Commissioner Marshall asked regarding a timeline, Mr. McLeod answered the project will be bid in March 2026 and there is a sixty-day process to complete contracts. The utilities will begin the process of relocation and hopefully next fall will be when Georgia Power will be relocating the poles. Commissioner Smith asked if this was a TIA 1 Project. Mr. McLeod answered yes.